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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC Coal Dumps in the Cottbus Railroad District

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25X1X6

REFERENCES \_\_\_\_\_

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

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1. On 10 March 1950 the Soviet RTO attached to the Cottbus Railroad District Administration requested that a list of all the coal dumps in the railroad district be made.
2. This list was to include the following data: Storage site of the dumps, number of loading and unloading sidings, number of coaling cranes and their types (operated electrically or by hand).

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Comment:

a. The present very critical coal situation of the Soviet Zone railways seems to have come to the attention of the Soviets. According to the well-known winter order issued by the then Transportation Chief of the Soviet Military Administration, General Kvashnin, an emergency reserve of 400,000 tons (~ 20 daily consumption rates) was to be accumulated and maintained. This emergency reserve was on hand in the Fall of 1949 and maintained until mid-December 1949. However, it was later drawn upon. It may be assumed that Kvashnin's successor was not familiar with the situation. At any rate, the coal reserves dwindled rapidly. The ebb was reached on 16 March 1950 with 66,004 tons of coal on hand, including 60,857 tons earmarked as emergency reserve and 5,147 tons of service coal. This amount represents coal supplies sufficient for approximately three days on the basis of a daily consumption rate of from 18,000 to 20,000 tons. Large-scale and sustained transportation operations will therefore not be possible unless new coal reserves are built up.

b. The Soviet measures in the Cottbus railroad district have probably been taken because of this situation. They indicate the intention to correct this critical condition.

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c. It is not known whether similar measures were also taken in the other seven railroad districts but it may be assumed. Energetic steps will possibly soon be taken to increase the coal reserves of the Soviet Zone railways to make them again a useful instrument for Soviet purposes.

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